

Types of Abuse

PHYSICAL: Hitting, slapping, kicking, burning, holding a knife to the body, destroying the victim's property, mutilating, choking, holding down, punching, etc.

EMOTIONAL: Humiliating, insulting, screaming, name calling, constant harassment, constant criticism, refusing to talk verbal abuse.

SEXUAL: Rape/sexual assault, unwanted sexual practices, forced sex with other men, sexual abuse of children, obsession with pornography, etc.

ECONOMIC: Withholding money, lying about financial assets/debts, stealing money, refusing to pay bills, using money for drugs/alcohol, withholding child support, controlling all household finances.

PSYCHOLOGICAL: "Crazy-making" playing tricks/mind games, biding objects (car keys, money, important documents), denying the abuse.

SYMPTOMS OF SPOUSE ABUSE

Physical Symptoms:

- Unexplained bruises or welts on victim's face, lips, mouth, torso, back or buttocks.
- Batterers attack their victims, leaving bruises, in unexposed areas (genitals, back of head)
- Unexplained fractures of skull, nose or facial structure multiple fractures-, "twist" fractures of the arms or legs
- Injuries on areas of body normally covered by clothing
- Injuries in various stages of healing
- Explanation for injuries inconsistent or implausible

Behavioral Symptoms:

- Emotional withdrawal
- Impulse or aggressiveness
- Apprehensiveness or fearfulness
- Depression or helplessness
- Inhibited or regressed behavior
- Disturbance of eating patterns/sleeping patterns
- Compulsive behaviors

Psychological Symptoms:

- Phobias/obsessions
- Depression/Anxiety

For additional information contact the CSS Women's Commission at 704-336-3210.